experiencing shortage of coal both on account of supply as well as inadequacy of transport infrastructure. In so far as the State of Gujarat is concerned, the information supplied by the Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat reveals that his office recommends coal and coke allotment for the various coal consuming SSI units as per their assessed capacity but the Railways are not supplying wagons as per recommendations to the tiny and small scale industries. The Industries Commissioner has also informed that the Railways have withdrawn the State quota ceiling limit of wagons from the year 1994.

Further, according to the Ministry of Coal, supplies to consumers other than power sector and including industrial units (including SSI in Gujarat) was 32.16 lakh tonnes in 1994-95 which has gone down to 25.76 lakh tonnes in 1995-96. The decrease in supplies was because of the higher priority being accorded for supplies to the power sector. In Gujarat, supplies to the power sector has increased from 128.88 lakh tonnes to 136.84 lakh tonnes in the corresponding periods.

Ministry of Coal has also informed that generally coal to Gujarat is supplied from South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and to some extent from Western coalfields Ltd. Increase in coal production from South Eastern Coalalfields Ltd. is possible. However, evacuation by rail has certain limitations. Consequently supplies to industrial consumers in Gujarat can improve only when the rail facilities for evacuation are improved. In the alternative, industrial consumers from Gujarat could consider obtaining coal from Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. by rail-cum-sea route. Currently certain cement plants in Gujarat are obtaining their coal from Paradip.

The Ministry of Railways have intimated that since the demand for coal is in excess of the availability as well as transport infrastructure there is a system of prioritised loading. The share of core sector consumers particularly, Power Houses is propertionately high due to excessive demand from these priority sectors. The Railways have also informed that there has been shortfall in the movement of coal for the non-core plants vis-a-vis the target because loading to the core-sector units has had to be given a higher priority. Steps are being taken to ensure a high level of movement during current year.

Districts without Consumer Redressal Forums

161. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in India in which the District Consumer Redressal Forums are not functional as on 1st June, 1996;

(b) the reasons for their not functioning; and

(c) by when will they start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Out of over 500 districts in the eountry, 459 district forums were functioning at the end of 1995-96. According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the responsibility for setting up of District Fora and their administration rests with the respective State Governments/U.T.Administrations.

Export of Sugar

162. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export sugar this year;